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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. John Koski, Dearborn Assembly of God, Dearborn, MI.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Omnipotent God, thank You for our hand, which reminds us of our priorities in prayer. Our thumb reminds us to pray for those closest to us. Bless our Senators' loved ones, friends, and staff.

Our pointing finger reminds us to pray for our spiritual leaders and teachers. Show our Senators the straight way so that they will not go astray.

Our tallest finger reminds us to pray for our elected leaders. Give our Senators wisdom in dealing with people who oppose them.

Our ring finger reminds us to pray for the weak in our society. Empower our Senators to support children and future children, the fatherless and widows, the poor, the needy, the sick and elderly.

Our little finger reminds us to pray for ourselves last. Bring balance to our Senators' lives, spirit, soul, and body.

In the name of our all-powerful Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to turn shortly to the senior Senator from Michigan to say a few words regarding the prayer.

Today, all time until 12:45 p.m. is equally divided between the two leaders, with a period for morning business extending only until 10 a.m.

At 10, the Senate will begin consideration of the supplemental conference report. At that time, the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee are expected to be here to make their opening statements.

The vote on adoption of the conference report is expected to occur at 12:45 p.m. today.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the last 15 minutes prior to the vote be equally divided between the two leaders with the majority leader controlling the last half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me indicate I probably will give some of that time to one of my colleagues on this side of the aisle and use the leader time. But I will have a very brief statement right before the vote.

I commend the majority leader and all of us for working together, frankly, to get this bill down to the President at the earliest possible time.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, are we under controlled time at this point?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield myself 8 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 8 minutes.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our opening prayer this morning was delivered by Rev. John Koski, an associate pastor at the Dearborn Assembly of God in Dearborn, MI. I am delighted that Chaplain Black was able to include him in our schedule of guest Chaplains.

Reverend Koski has served as a pastor on a Native American reservation in Montana, as a Christian school administrator in Colorado, and as a Bible College professor in Louisiana. He has conducted a bicycling ministry for 4 years in southeast Asia, traveling 20,000 miles on his bicycle.

I know my colleague Senator STABENOW joins me in thanking Reverend Koski for delivering our opening prayer this morning and wishing him all the best in his ministries in the future.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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